

January, 2012 Newsletter



"A social club for all seasons"

*Happy, Healthy
New Year to our wonderful members!!*

HAPPY HOURS

January 6, 6-8PM

SAWA Restaurant (drink specials 6-7PM) (Appetizers)
Village of Merrick Park, 360 San Lorenzo Ave.
Coral Gables (305) 447-6555
9PM Belly dancer

January 13, 6-8PM

Duffy's Sports Grill
3969 NE 163rd Street
North Miami Beach, (305) 760-2124
Drink specials and complimentary chips/ salsa
(This is the old Shooters' location, Intracoastal and 163rd)

January 20, 6-8PM (1/2 price drinks specials)

John Martin's Irish Pub
253 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, (305) 445-3777

January 27 6-8PM

The Irish Times (drink specials, appetizers)
5850 Sunset Drive,
South Miami (305) 667-4114



MSC Election Meeting

Friday, February 24, 2012, 6:00-7:15PM (drink specials & complimentary appetizers)

The Peacock Garden Café Bar (Orange Awning entrance near Sonesta Hotel)
2889 McFarlane Road, Coconut Grove (305) 774-3332.

At 7:15 we will all join in a private room for election meeting. Please be prompt for cash bar and appetizers before meeting. We look forward to introducing our candidates to you in person on February 24. **Please attend this important meeting to support the club!**
(See Board of Directors article inside for candidates)

MSC 2012 Ski Trips and Mediterranean Cruise

All Miami Ski Club ski trips are priced per person, double occupancy, unless otherwise specified. Base price includes (except where noted) airfare, ground transportation, lodging and taxes, a pre-trip and post-trip party and minimum one dining event at the resort. Initial trip deposits are \$750, unless specified otherwise. View fine print on your trip flyer and trip application. Please note that, after the time of booking, the airlines may impose additional taxes or fuel surcharges and local taxing authorities may increase existing taxes, which would be passed on to the trip participants. Airlines recently instituted baggage fees which are the responsibility of the trip participant. Miami Ski Club takes pride in our competitive pricing for this 2012 ski season. We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance.

STEAMBOAT, COLORADO

January 21 to 28, 2012, Steamboat Grand, \$1,525

The Florida Ski Council trip is guaranteed to be a fabulous time. We will be staying at the Steamboat Grand, across from the base of the gondola. Amenities include an outdoor pool and hot tub, fitness facilities with sauna, a full service spa, and game room. Steamboat offers almost 3,000 acres of skiable terrain and an impressive 3,700 foot vertical rise – certainly enough to keep the most discriminating skier entertained. Whether you prefer downhill skiing, snowboarding or cross country skiing, all are available. Snow shoeing tour, or guided ski nature tours also available. The adventurous will have a chance to compete in the FSC races. The trip also includes the great FSC evening parties!

Trip Leader: Cindy Oliver (305) 387-3514 Steamboat@miamiskiclub.net

PARK CITY, UTAH

March 10 - 17, 2012, Park City Peaks Hotel, \$1,390

Here is a place with access to three distinct mountain areas. If you want pampering, go to Deer Valley or you can head to the Canyons, or Park City Mountain. And did you know that you can actually ski six resorts in one day? Just take the guided Interconnect Tour which takes you on a hike/ski tour of 6 incredible peaks at Deer Valley, Park City, Solitude, Brighton, Alta and Snowbird – what a treat. A fun family trip! Remember, Park City also has the Olympic Park where you can bobsled the actual course – imagine the adrenaline rush you will be getting, too fast for you? Take the fun coaster ride down the Payday lift or go to the Gorgoza Tubing Park and then top it all off with a balloon ride over Park City, it does not get any better than this!

Trip Leader: David Hartman (305) 453-9208 ParkCity@miamiskiclub.net

SPECTACULAR MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

COME JOIN US, BRING FRIENDS!!!

May 31 – June 10, 2012 Includes 2 nights in Barcelona

Experience one of Europe's most popular destinations aboard the new NCL EPIC. We have a spectacular itinerary for you on our 7 day cruise. Travel easy with Miami Ski Club to Barcelona, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice and Provence. \$1000 deposit required. Please view trip flyer and trip application inside for pricing and complete details!

Trip Leader: Pamela Epstein (305) 772-1500 Mediterranean@miamiskiclub.net

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

May 31 to June 10, 2012
Includes two nights in Barcelona



Experience one of Europe’s most popular destinations in a brand new and unique way aboard the NCL EPIC. This modern marvel, voted ‘best cruise ship overall’ by travel weekly, made her European debut May 2011. Relax as you enjoy the award winning and hilariously inventive Blue Man Group, the Cirque Dreams, comedy specials, an ice bar (one of 16 world wide), a casino, spa, two pools, numerous restaurants and many other amenities.

The spectacular itinerary begins with two nights in Barcelona, the capital of Spain’s Catalonia region. Here you will be able to visit various points of interest and enjoy optional evening outings with typical food, drink and music. You will then continue on a seven day cruise. See complete itinerary in the back. First you will visit Naples, with optional side tours to the Isle of Capri and Pompeii. The next stop will lead you to Rome. After you will visit Florence and the Tuscan region. You will then continue to Nice, the jewel of the French Riviera, then on to Marseille, the oldest city in France founded in 600BC. Here you may also want to visit the city of Avignon, and the quaint villages of Le Baux and Aix en Provence. With such abundant choices every step of the way, and reasonable prices, this Miami Ski Club trip is destined to be a success.

Package: Prices are per person double occupancy for Inside and Balcony Cabins. Prices are per person single occupancy for the Studio Cabins. Prices include 2 nights and 2 breakfasts in a 4 Star Hotel in Barcelona, all meals and snacks aboard the ship, round trip air from Miami, ground transfers, air taxes, fuel surcharges, port charges, cruise taxes, ground and ship gratuities, pre and post trip parties. *Prices may be subject to change due to flight changes and any other events beyond our control. Airline baggage fees are not included in the package.*

Contact:
Pamela Epstein, Trip Leader
Mediterranean@miamiskiclub.net
305-772-1500

Inside Cabin	Double Occupancy	\$3,100
Studio Cabin	Single Occupancy	\$3,350
Balcony Cabin	Double Occupancy	\$3,450

Sun [Barcelona, Spain](#)

6:00PM

Barcelona, Spain The capital of Spain's Catalonia region is a classy, exciting, vibrant city that hosted the 1992 Summer Olympic Games. The old center of town boasts one of the greatest concentrations of Gothic architecture in Europe. But you'll find many marvels of Modernisme about throughout the rest of the city.

Mon [At Sea](#)

Tue [Naples, Italy](#)

7:00 AM 7:00 PM

Naples, Italy Naples changes dramatically from neighborhood to neighborhood, from chic to shabby, then back to chic again. But some of Italy's best shopping and dining is always at hand, including the original Neapolitan Pizza. Nearby you'll find Mt. Vesuvius, the Isle of Capri and Pompeii.

Wed [Rome \(Civitavecchia\), Italy](#)

7:00 AM 7:00 PM

Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy Bask in the glory of the city that once was the capital of the world's most powerful empire. No visit to Rome is complete without a visit to the Coliseum that stands as a reminder of the gladiator days. But be sure to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican and the Pantheon, too.

Thu [Florence/Pisa \(Livorno\), Italy](#)

7:00 AM 7:00 PM

Florence/Pisa (Livorno), Italy How lucky to visit the Tuscan region, Florence & Pisa, resplendent in art and history. What's even more fortunate is that all the main attractions in Florence are centrally located for the perfect walking tour. See Santa Croce, Piazza del Duomo and Michelangelo's David.

Fri [Nice \(Villefranche\), France](#)

8:00 AM 7:00 PM

Nice (Villefranche), France At the foot of the Alps is the jewel of the French Riviera. Luxuriate on long sandy beaches and terrace cafés. Stroll along the Promenade des Anglais. Savor pissaladiés and caillettes.

Featured Shore Excursions

Sat [Provence \(Marseille\), France](#)

7:00 AM 4:00 PM

Provence (Marseille), France Located on the Mediterranean coast, Marseille is the oldest city in France and was founded in 600 BC. Amongst the many terracotta-roofed buildings lie many intriguing sights including the Cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde. Other places well worth visiting are the city of Avignon and the quaint villages of Le Baux & Aix en Provence.

Sun [Barcelona, Spain](#)

5:00 AM

State of the Miami Ski Club Address

The annual Address is a vehicle by which the President accounts to the membership for the fiscal and general health of the Club. The following report covers our 2010/11 fiscal year, which was the first year of my presidency. On behalf of the 10/12 Executive Committee, it is my pleasure to share the following Address with you.

Introduction

The state of the Club is measured by three components: finances, membership, and participation. Overall we performed well financially. We also did well with participation in our FSC trip to Breckenridge and Exotic trip to Morocco; and although we had less participation in our Banff Ski trip, it also showed a profit as did our Keys weekend.

The present economy has not worked in our favor as leisure activities are usually the first items to be curtailed. We continue to make the best of the situation and have achieved overall success due to the efforts of the Executive Committee (EC), Board of Directors, and the volunteers who have contributed their time and energy. Much of the credit must go to our Executive Committee members who had no prior executive board experience and learned through guidance and advice from past EC members.

Finances

The bottom line depends on many factors, including the financial health of the club left by the previous administration. The EC members were fortunate to receive a financially healthy club, have maintained the same working model as their predecessors, and have worked to keep the club financially strong. In 2010/2011 we brought in a net income of \$16,757.

Budget

Our numbers look good but we fell short of our projected advertising income, due, in part, to our decision, in December, 2010, to enter into our 'Green' phase through exclusive use of weekly internet communication through Constant Contact. Set up fees for this service was \$396 for the year. We are currently working on alternative ways to offer advertisements on our MSC website and possibly Constant Contact which will increase our advertising income. By "going green" we plan on saving money in the following years ahead. MSC spent \$4,175 this year for newsletter printing which was a savings of \$1,225 from amount budgeted for the year. We also had a major database cleanup and reduction of mailings to non-members. Also as required by our Bylaws, we carry Directors and Officers insurance coverage. This year's premium was \$ 2,878 which was \$1,622 under budget. We have actually only come in \$216 over our budget of \$3,500 for office operating expenses. For our two Snowballs and Holiday Fest events, we budgeted \$9,000 and only spent \$7,590. In 2010 the Snowballs had a minimal admission fee for members and we collected \$2,360. Special Events generated a profit of \$2,033 for us. Membership dues collected totaled \$15,126, which fell short of our \$20,000 budget.

The largest contributor to our bottom line was trip income, totaling \$21,655 which was a gain over our \$11,000 projected income. We continue to enjoy a significantly healthy treasury, and as of May 31st, 2011 we had \$128,629 in our bank account.

Trips

The best financial measuring tool is our participation in trips. This year we had 104 members travel with the club, totaling 57 on ski trips, and 47 on non-ski trips. The trip comps are a significant source of income for the club which diminished this year. In the end, all of our trips were in the black. Keys weekend trip earning \$1,265, Breckenridge trip earning \$12,908, Banff trip earning \$1,075, Morocco trip earning \$ 9,148. The trips are the backbone of our club.

Conclusion

I am proud to say we have had an extremely good year. It still appears difficult to boost our membership. We are trying hard with Constant Contact and participation on Face Book as social networking. I have enjoyed an amazing first year with a dedicated Executive Committee, a great Board of Directors, trip leaders and volunteers, and look forward to the rest of my term. All the wonderful friendships and acquaintances I have made in the past 8 years are priceless and were the primary reason I wanted to become Miami Ski Club President. Thank you to all our wonderful, loyal members, who keep renewing each year and help us keep our Ski Club going. New members, it is great to have you and please bring your friends. We welcome you all!!

Pamela Rose Epstein, Proud MSC President

Board of Directors

As you may know, 2012 is our election year, and on **February 24** we will be selecting our leadership for the next two years. At the election meeting, the Chairman of the Elections Committee will introduce four candidates for the MSC Executive Committee and then solicit nominations from the floor. If the candidates run unopposed, these new officers will assume their duties on June 1, 2012, at the beginning of our fiscal year. In the event there are qualified nominations from the floor and we have multiple candidates for any of the EC positions, the person nominated will need to be present and before the adjournment of the meeting will need to submit a Request/ Application for consideration as a candidate. **At this time four candidates have submitted their applications by the December 1, 2011 deadline, for the following positions:**

David Hartman for **President**
Karen Kirby for **Vice President**
Bill Grieco for **Treasurer**
Gina Masses-Valera for **Secretary**

David Hartman- has been a MSC member since 2005. He served as a Board Member as Director of Advertising and was our EC Vice President in 2007-2008. David is currently on the Board as Director of Web Services. He was trip leader on two past trips and presently Trip Leader for Our Park City 2012 trip, which is sold out. David has run numerous Keys snorkel, dive trips for Miami Ski Club. In his personal life he owns and operates a travel agency and marketing consulting company and volunteers with the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo. David's enthusiasm and experience will prove invaluable to MSC.

Karen Kirby- has been with MSC over 4 years and has consecutively served as a Board member as Director of Web Services and Hospitality. She and husband, John have attended four trips with the club and frequent all our Happy Hours. For the past 35 years Karen has owned her own business in the field of medical transcription and has served as Mayor and councilwoman for the Village of Miami Shores. In addition, she has served on numerous boards for charity organizations. The list goes on -- Karen is a real asset!

Bill Grieco has been in the MSC for five years, is our current EC Vice President and our Florida Ski Council Delegate. He ran our Breckenridge trip 2009. He brings a wealth of experience as a Professional Accountant and has been treasurer for many organizations over the years. Bill is currently the treasurer of the local chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers. A tremendous asset in handling our finances. Bill's easy going nature makes him a pleasure to work with.

Gina Masses-Valera Gina is currently our EC Treasurer and doing a great job. She has been in our club five years as well and attended 3 ski trips. She was on the Board of Directors as Director of Development for Broward County 2009. Gina is a CPA with her own practice on South Beach.

We look forward to introducing these candidates to you in person on **February 24**. Please come to this important meeting and support the Club!

Florida Ski Council Fall Meeting

I just attended the Florida Ski Council Fall Meeting during the first weekend in November at the Holiday Inn Select in Orlando. I was joined by Board Members Pam Epstein, Maggie Zaitz, and David Hartman. Also in attendance was Cindy Oliver who is running the Steamboat trip this year. The fall meeting is where the ski areas for the 2013 ski season are chosen. The January trip is the main FSC trip and usually averages around 700 participants. It includes the January board meeting, dinner parties, Florida Cup race, and a mountain picnic. The February trip is also a FSC trip, but only averages around 300 participants. The March or April trip is for ski clubs to consider during their respective spring break weeks and is not a FSC run trip. A Technology and Marketing Workshop was held on Friday, November 4. A Costume Party and buffet dinner was held on Friday night. It was sponsored by Bob McErlean of Holidaze. He showed a short video on the upcoming FSC Europe FAM trip to St. Anton, Austria.

We started off Saturday with a breakfast sponsored by one of the ski resorts. They did a short presentation of their resort. The morning session discussed the January and February locations for the 2013 ski season. The locations had been narrowed down to Snowmass, Heavenly and Vail for January 2013; and Big Sky, Crested Butte and Telluride for February 2013. Lunch was sponsored by another resort. They provided a short presentation of their resort. Winter Park, Keystone and Taos made their pitch for the Spring Break 2013 trips in the afternoon. Representatives from each resort presented information in an entertaining style. We were able to ask questions. A review of the ski trips for 2012 was discussed in breakout sessions. Saturday night's buffet dinner included a trip preview program. Each of the ski areas had a table with brochures and handouts. Each club started at a different table. After eight minutes we moved to the next ski area's table. We were able to ask questions and collect information on the different areas.

Sunday morning breakfast was sponsored by one of the resorts and included a last minute appeal to choose their location. The Sunday morning meeting included the final selection for the 2013 trips by a secret vote. The winners are Heavenly (January 26 – February 2, 2013), Big Sky (February 23 – March 2, 2013) and Winter Park for Spring Break (March or April 2013). Miami plans on going on the Heavenly and Big Sky trips. We will choose another location for Spring Break. We are looking into Keystone.

The next meeting of the FSC will be in January 2012 during the Steamboat trip. The December FAM trip to Austria will be discussed and a vote will be held to choose the 2013 FSC European trip. The Spring FSC meeting will be held at the Innsbruck Lodge near Tampa from June 1 to 3, 2012. The spring meeting is the annual business meeting and the start of the new fiscal year. It is when elections are held, bi-laws are changed and the members vote on ski areas to consider for the 2014 ski season. The list is narrowed down to three locations each for January, February and March. The fall meeting went well and it was great meeting our fellow skiers from Florida and the resort representatives. If you would like more information about the FSC, please contact Bill Grieco at FSCdelegate@miamiskiclub.net.